

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00  
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P R 161838Z AUG 77  
FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 359  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T GENEVA 7027

EXDIS USSALTTWO

EO 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PARM  
SUBJ: AMB EARLE'S STATEMENT OF AUG 16, 1977  
(SALT TWO 1348)

THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR EARLE  
AT THE SALT TWO MEETING OF AUG 16, 1977:

MR. MINISTER:

I. TODAY I WILL DISCUSS THE DESIRABILITY OF HAVING A  
CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE NUMERICAL VALUES FOR THE LAUNCH-  
WEIGHT AND THROW-WEIGHT LIMITS ON ICBMS.

II. THE UNITED STATES HAS EXPRESSED ITS VIEW THAT AGREED  
NUMERICAL VALUES FOR THESE WEIGHTS SHOULD BE RECORDED. SUCH  
RECORDING WOULD REDUCE POSSIBLE AMBIGUITY AND THE POTENTIAL  
FOR MISUNDERSTANDING WITH RESPECT OT THE LIMITATIONS ON  
THROW-WEIGHT AND LAUNCH-WEIGHT OF ICBMS.

THE SOVIET DELEGATION'S STATEMENT OF JULY 15, EXPRESSED  
THE VIEW THAT AGREED NUMERICAL VALUES WERE NOT NECESSARY.  
IT WAS ASSERTED THAT THE SIDES COULD NOT, BASED ON A CLEAR  
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AND DETAILED DEFINITION OF THE LAUNCH-WEIGHT AND THROW-  
WEIGHT OF ICBMS AS PROVIDED IN THE NEW AGREEMENT, FORM  
DIFFERING JUDGMENTS WITH RESPECT TO THE ACTUAL VALUES OF  
THOSE CRITERIA. FURTHER, IT WAS STATED THAT SUCH VALUES  
WOULD BE ESTABLISHED ON THE BASIS OF DATA OBTAINED BY  
NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS.

THERE IS NO DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SIDES THAT VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT SHALL BE BY NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS. NONETHELESS, IT IS THE VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES THAT AN AGREED SPECIFICATION IN NUMERICAL TERMS WOULD MAKE CLEAR TO THE DESIGNERS AND TO THOSE WHO MAKE DECISIONS ON SUCH MATTERS ON BOTH SIDES PRECISELY WHAT ICBM LAUNCH-WEIGHTS AND THROW-WEIGHTS WOULD BE PERMITTED DURING THE PERIOD OF THE NEW AGREEMENT, THEREBY DIMINISHING THE POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER CONTROVERSY.

III. IN KEEPING WITH THE POSITION OF THE U.S. ON THE DESIRABILITY OF RECORDING NUMERICAL VALUES, I WISH TO ADVISE YOU, MR. MINISTRE, THAT, FOR ITS PLANNING PURPOSES, WITH RESPECT TO ICBMS IT MIGHT DEVELOP, TEST OR DEPLOY IN THE FUTURE, THE U.S. CONSIDERS THE LAUNCH-WEIGHT LIMIT ON LIGHT ICBMS TO BE 90,000 KILOGRAMS AND THE THROW-WEIGHT LIMIT TO BE 3,600 KILOGRAMS.

IN THIS CONNECTION, THE U.S. TAKES NOTE OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION'S PROPOSAL OF JULY 15, THAT "...AS OF THE DATE OF SIGNATURE OF THE AGREEMENT BEING WORKED OUT THE GREATEST LAUNCH-WEIGHTS AND THROW-WEIGHTS RESPECTIVELY, FOR LIGHT AND HEAVY ICBMS BE THOSE OF SOVIET RS-18 AND RS-20 ICBMS." IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THESE MISSILES ARE THOSE WHICH ARE DESIGNATED BY THE UNITED STATES AS THE SS-19 AND THE SS-18, RESPECTIVELY. EARLE

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**Subject:** AMB EARLE'S STATEMENT OF AUG 16, 1977 (SALT TWO 1348) THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR  
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**Review Markings:**  
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